

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated July 29, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-46 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 31-46 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is presented herein.

Allowed Claims

Applicant respectfully acknowledges and appreciates the indication by the Examiner that Claims 1-30 are allowed.

Entry of Response is Proper

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration on the part of the Examiner since Claims 31-46, the only remaining non-allowed claims, are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to objections raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 31-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,691,655 to Aoyama et al. (Aoyama). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections; however, as Claims 31-46 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

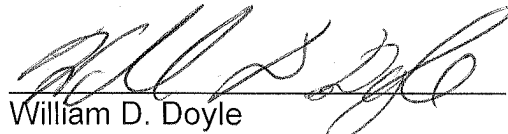
Conclusion

In view of the above, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, allowance of Claims 1-30, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 108426-00070.**

Respectfully submitted,
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